

Homeless Education Subcommittee*
Committee on Homelessness

Homeless Education Plan

Charge of the Subcommittee:

"This subcommittee would create a presentation on homelessness that would work to reduce negative misunderstandings, to be given before community organizations and groups" ---Approved minutes, July 9, 2009

Content:

The subcommittee will base its outreach on the document titled, "All Roads Lead Home. The Pioneer Valley's Plan to End Homelessness", (February 2008). The publication lays out the plan, strategies and actions that are needed to end homelessness in the region within the next ten years. The group constructing the document included the mayors of Northampton and Holyoke, leaders of faith communities, educators, business leaders, Town Manager Larry Shaffer, Community Department Director Roy Rosenblatt, and three members of the Committee on Homelessness. The production of the document was based on workgroup meetings, which included Homelessness Prevention, Housing, Mainstream Services, Chronic Homelessness, and Data & Research. The publication includes input from homeless individuals and families.

In addition, the Subcommittee will gather information from other print sources, and from direct sources such as homeless, previously homeless and at-risk individuals, and CDBG-funded/Elliott homeless outreach workers.

Format:

The format of the outreach will be a public presentation including a question-and-answer period.

Outreach venues:

The subcommittee considers the following as potential outreach venues: neighborhoods, public entities (such as the Jones Library or the Amherst Police Department), social service agencies (such as the Amherst Survival Center), civic groups (such as the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce), and media outlets (such as ACTV or WMUA).

***upon approval of the name change of the committee**



TOWN OF AMHERST

COMMITTEE CHARGE

Name: COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

Appointing authority: Select Board

Type: Committee

Number of voting members: 7

Town bylaw:

Member appointment: 3 years

Note: Where possible, the Select Board will appoint two homeless persons or formerly homeless persons to the Committee.

Committee charge summary:

1. To attend meetings and participate as an official representative of the Town of Amherst in Northampton/Holyoke Regional Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness initiative.
2. To collaborate with other towns/cities and their relevant committees, as well as any relevant Amherst committees to find cooperative approaches for support of the homeless in Amherst.
3. To research and make recommendations to the Select Board of the best known practices to end homelessness in Amherst.
4. To assist the Town and Town Manager in implementing the recommendations.
5. To brief the Select Board and file written reports to Select Board in September and March of every year on the Committee's work/progress.
6. To make recommendations to the Amherst Housing Authority and the Community Preservation Act Committee.

Town of Amherst
Request for Proposal

**To conduct a feasibility study for housing homeless individuals in
Amherst**

Proposals must be received no later than February 6, 2008 4:00 P.M.

and mailed or delivered to the

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
BANGS COMMUNITY CENTER
70 BOLTWOOD WALK
AMHERST, MA 01002
ATTENTION: ROY ROSENBLATT**

The Town of Amherst encourages the involvement of minority business enterprises and women's business enterprises in the fulfillment of this Scope of Services.

In accordance with state procurement regulations the Town of Amherst is requesting proposals for the following:

I. Purchase Description

There is compelling evidence accumulated from many sources – the Amherst Emergency Homelessness Task Force, the Amherst Survival Center, Not Bread Alone and data from the Pioneer Valley Regional Effort to end homelessness – that there are homeless individuals and families who call Amherst ‘home’. The Emergency Homelessness Task Force spent a year identifying the need for emergency shelter. The Task Force concluded that there is a significant population of homeless individuals and families in need of permanent housing. Responding to this study, the Amherst Select Board appointed a permanent Committee, the Committee on Homelessness, to develop both a short-term and long-term strategies for housing homeless individuals and families.

All Roads Lead Home, the Pioneer Valley’s Plan to End Homelessness, recognizes that housing alone is necessary but not sufficient to house homeless individuals. “People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness come from every community, but they are unable to access services they need in some communities.” The conclusion is that varied, flexible social services must be part of any successful strategy to provide permanent and stable housing for homeless individuals.

The Town is seeking an agency interested in developing housing for homeless individuals. As an incentive, the Town is requesting proposals

and rehabilitation of an existing facility that can house homeless individuals and one option for the construction of a new facility housing homeless individuals.

2. Assess the suitability of each in housing homeless individuals, including but not limited to its location, and its convenience to services and to transportation. If vacant land, assess the relevant zoning regulations, including acreage requirements (i.e. parking requirement) and land characteristics, including topography and vegetation, open spaces, property lines, existing buildings and structures, existing on-site utilities and infrastructure, existing public and private streets, wetlands and other resource areas and buffers for example the presence of wetlands. Determine the number of individuals such a facility could house. If a building, assess the appropriateness of the location, the relevant zoning regulations that would be applicable to an SRO, assess community support and provide a preliminary estimate of the cost of rehabilitation of house approximately 10 - 20 homeless individuals.
3. Develop a financial plan for the construction or purchase and rehabilitation of a facility, the management of the facility, including the availability of vouchers and the availability of on-site social services for homeless individuals.

III. Deliverables:

1. Prepare a report that responds to questions 1 – 3 above that will include a presentation to the Committee on Homelessness.

IV. Submittals

Please provide:

1. A proposal for services that address the following:
 - a. Experience in working with town governments and committees.
 - b. Experience locating funding to build housing for the homeless individuals and/or low income individuals
 - c. Experience building single room occupancy (SRO) units? enhanced SRO? Enhanced handicap-accessible SRO?

2. The Consultant will have experience and knowledge of homeless individuals in the Amherst Community.
3. The Consultant is available to begin services immediately

VI. Comparative Evaluative Criteria:

Each proposal will be evaluated on its responses to section IV 1. a- g on a scale of 1 to 5. The top two agencies with the highest scores will be invited for an interview with the Committee on Homelessness. A list of standardized questions will be asked at the interview.

VII. Rules for Award

*The Town will select the responsive and responsible consultant submitting **the most advantageous proposal, taking into consideration the management consultant's** experience, staff capacity, references, and plan of services as well as the proposal price*

VII. Additional Information

The two agencies submitting proposals with the highest score will be interviewed by the Committee on Homelessness on December 22, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

Completed responses should be submitted to the Community Development Department by February 6, 2009 and the two selected agencies will be required to make a presentation to the Committee on Homelessness on February 27, 2009.

**For additional information contact Roy Rosenblatt,
Community Development Department, Town of Amherst.**

Town of Amherst

Solicitation of Quotes

**To provide emergency sheltering and social services for
a minimum of 4 individuals**

Quotes must be received no later than
October 5, 2009
and mailed or delivered to the

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
AMHERST TOWN HALL
4 BOLTWOOD AVENUE
AMHERST, MA 01002
ATTENTION: ROY ROSENBLATT**

The Town of Amherst encourages the involvement of minority business enterprises and women's business enterprises in the fulfillment of this Scope of Services.

In accordance with state procurement regulations the Town of Amherst is requesting quotes for the following:

Purchase Description

Currently Amherst has no emergency shelter options for homeless individuals during the winter months. The Town is requesting quotes from eligible agencies to provide an emergency shelter for a minimum of four individuals with services as required (following DHCD guidelines for the provision of emergency sheltering). The Town will make available a maximum of \$ 24,000.00 to contribute to the cost of providing such service. These funds can be used in a variety of ways to further the effort of providing emergency shelter; that is funds can be used for rent, maintenance, utilities, capital repair, etc.

ATTACHMENT A
PRICE PROPOSAL

Please specify the amount you are requesting (maximum amount, \$24,000) for the provision of services as specified in the above project description.

_____ for services as specified.

